IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Tariq M. Rana et al.

Examiner:

J. S. Parkin, Ph.D.

Application No.:

09/889,982

Group Art Unit:

1648

Confirmation No.:

4387

Docket:

1368-17 PCT/US

Filed:

January 14, 2002

Dated:

February 17, 2004

For:

TAT-DERIVED OLIGOUREA AND ITS METHOD OF PRODUCTION AND USE IN HIGH-AFFINITY AND

SPECIFIC BINDING OF HIV-1TAR RNA

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: February 17, 200

Signature: Barbara Thoma

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 14, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action issued November 14, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the November 14, 2003 Office Action is due February 14, 2004. However, because February 14, 2004 falls on a Saturday, and Monday, February 16, 2004 is a Federal Holiday, a response to the November 14, 2003 Office Action is now due Tuesday, February 17, 2004. Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendment to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.